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BOROUGH OF CHATHAM

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ANNUAL

# REPORT

OF

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1949

J. O. MURRAY, M.D., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health





BOROUGH OF CHATHAM

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100-187

## **List of Members of the Chatham Council**

THE MAYOR (Alderman F. H. Lawrence, J.P.)

THE DEPUTY MAYOR (Alderman E. G. Maynard)

Alderman M. Packer.

Alderman H. J. Stearne.

Alderman W. F. Hollands.

Alderman W. Blackmore.

Councillor R. Homden.

Councillor A. S. Price, J.P.

Councillor F. Semple, B.Sc.

Councillor W. G. Hogg.

Councillor G. W. Pagett, M.A., C.C.

Councillor J. Presnail.

Councillor L. Shave, C.C.

Councillor P. J. Kelly.

Councillor C. E. Harvey.

Councillor W. J. B. Bliss, J.P.

Councillor G. W. Hitches.

Councillor A. Mattocks.

Councillor G. W. Rhodes.

Councillor D. Barker, M.B., B.Ch.

Councillor R. Foster.

Councillor F. C. Mannington.

Councillor F. L. Pay.

Councillor A. G. C. Brown.

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## **Public Health Committee**

This consists of the whole of the members of the Council.

CHAIRMAN : Councillor G. W. Rhodes

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Councillor D. Barker, M.B., B.Ch.

**Public Health Officers**

*Medical Officer of Health :*

J. O. Murray, M.D., D.P.H.

*Deputy Medical Officer of Health :*

P. Freeman, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (to 3.9.49)

J. H. Whittles, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H. (from 7.12.49)

*Chief Sanitary Inspector :*

Thomas Howard (a) (b)

*Senior District Sanitary Inspector :*

A. E. South (a) (b)

*District Sanitary Inspectors :*

H. Taylor (a) (b), R. W. Wright (a) (b)

*Chief Clerk :*

Miss J. F. Coffey

*Clerks :*

Miss S. Springate, O. Thomas

(a) Sanitary Inspector's Certificate.

(b) Meat Inspector's Certificate.

# Borough of Chatham

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Chatham.*

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1949.

## BIRTHS

The total number of live births recorded was 857. The birth rate, which, in 1947, reached a peak of 25.5 per thousand living persons, has shown a decline in the past two years, being 21.2 in 1948 and 20.5 in 1949. The number of still births was 19, giving a still birth rate of 0.45 per thousand population.

## DEATHS

There were 531 deaths, equal to a death rate of 12.7 per thousand living persons. In 1948, the corresponding figure was 11.2.

## INFANTILE MORTALITY. (Deaths of infants under one year of age).

The Infant mortality rate is the lowest recorded in the Borough. It is 29.17 per thousand live births..

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES, OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

There were no serious epidemics during the year. As in 1948, there were no notifications of Diphtheria during 1949. Whooping Cough was the cause of the largest number of notifications, namely, 189 cases during 1949.

There were no infectious diseases deaths other than from Pneumonia, which was the cause of 22 deaths.

## TUBERCULOSIS—ALL FORMS

The tables on page 23 show that, whilst the notification rate of Tuberculosis has risen since pre-war years, there has not been a proportionate increase in the death rate. The notification rate which was 1.27 per thousand persons living in the period 1935-1939, was 2.23 in 1949, whilst the death rate, which was 0.69 per thousand persons living in the period 1935-1939, was 0.72 in 1949.

Associated with this increased notification rate, the registered cases of Tuberculosis has risen from 180 in 1940 to 363 at the end of December, 1949.

These figures suggest that methods of diagnosis and treatment have improved, as indeed they have in recent years, mass radiography having detected many cases of early unsuspected infection.

It can be assumed, therefore, that part of the increase in notifications is due to earlier and more frequent diagnosis, but some of it must be attributed to greater infectivity among the community. The spread of infection is facilitated by the existing bad housing conditions and overcrowding and early isolation is more difficult on account of the serious shortage of sanatoria and hospital beds.

## HOUSING

The number of houses erected by the Local Authority in 1949 was 218 and 26 houses were erected by other persons. Demolition orders were made on 24 houses.

The lack of adequate housing conditions still remains the confronting public health problem. In April 1949, there were 1,279 applicants for corporation houses.

## SEWERAGE

Additional extensions to the foul sewer, totalling 5,951 yards, were carried out during the year. For details see page 25.

In the preparation of this report, I am indebted to my colleagues in this and other corporation departments for information and figures which they have supplied to me, and I would like to record my appreciation of this help and their co-operation during the year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for the consideration and support they have given me on many occasions.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. O. MURRAY,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## SECTION A

### **STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA**

Area (in acres) ... ... ... ... ...	4,356
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (civilian)	41,750
(total)	54,420

Number of inhabited houses on the Rate Books:—

Dwellinghouses ... ... ... ... ...	11,758
Shops with living accommodation ... ... ...	726
Licensed Premises with living accommodation	123
Rateable Value ... ... ... ...	£293,676
Sum represented by a penny rate ... ... ...	£1,137

#### **Extracts from Vital Statistics**

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Live Births—Legitimate ...	395	420	815
Illegitimate ...	25	17	42
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	...	...	20.53
Stillbirths ... ...	...	...	19
Birth Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	...	...	20.98
Deaths ... ... ...	278	253	531
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	12.72

#### **Death Rate of Infants Under 1 Year of Age**

All infants per 1,000 live births ... ... ...	29.17
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#### **Births**

The number of births recorded is 857 as compared to 886 in 1948.

#### **Deaths**

There were 531 deaths. During the previous seven years there were:—

1948 ... ... ... ...	467
1947 ... ... ... ...	562
1946 ... ... ... ...	485
1945 ... ... ... ...	501
1944 ... ... ... ...	501
1943 ... ... ... ...	513
1942 ... ... ... ...	520

The following table shows the Birth, Death and Infant Mortality Rates during a period of 40 years:—

Period		Birth Rate per 1,000	Death Rate per 1,000	Infant Mortality per 1,000 births
1910 to 1914 (average)	...	25.1	13.4	105
1915 to 1919 do.	...	22	18	97
1920 to 1924 do.	...	22.1	12.3	73
1925 ...	...	20.3	11.7	63
1926 ...	...	20.2	13.2	83
1927 ...	...	21.1	13.9	65
1928 ...	...	18.01	11.8	60
1929 ...	...	18.03	14.2	95
1930 ...	...	18.5	10.8	43
1931 ...	...	18	14.4	63
1932 ...	...	17.5	12.4	60
1933 ...	...	15.1	11.5	61
1934 ...	...	15.2	11.4	63
1935 ...	...	16.3	11.2	50
1936 ...	...	15.5	11.9	51
1937 ...	...	16.2	12.4	66
1938 ...	...	15.95	12.2	64.1
1939 ...	...	16.1	12.4	36.3
1940 ...	...	19.55	15.58	38.1
1941 ...	...	19.06	14.51	53.37
1942 ...	...	19.03	14.5	80.76
1943 ...	...	20.1	14.38	68.3
1944 ...	...	23.7	14.23	87.3
1945 ...	...	20.73	13.8	52.1
1946 ...	...	24.7	12.3	32.1
1947 ...	...	25.5	13.8	38.5
1948 ...	...	21.28	11.21	29.34
1949 ...	...	20.53	12.72	29.17

**Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, and Maternal Mortality in the Year 1949**  
**Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns**

		126 County England and Wales	126 County Borough and Great Towns (including London)	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000-50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County	Chatham
<b>Births</b>						
Live births ..	..	16.7(a)	18.7	18.0	18.5	20.53
Still births ..	..	0.39(a)	0.47	0.40	0.37	0.45
<b>Deaths</b>						
All Causes ..	..	11.7(a)	12.5	11.6	12.2	12.72
Typhoid and paratyphoid ..	..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping cough ..	..	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00
Diphtheria ..	..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis ..	..	0.45	0.52	0.42	0.52	0.52
Influenza ..	..	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.11	—
Smallpox ..	..	0.00	0.00	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis ..	..	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01
Pneumonia ..	..	0.51	0.56	0.49	0.59	—
<i>Notifications (Corrected)</i>						
Typhoid fever ..	..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid fever ..	..	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-spinal fever ..	..	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02
Scarlet fever ..	..	1.63	1.72	1.83	1.46	—
Whooping cough ..	..	2.39	2.44	2.39	1.70	—
Diphtheria ..	..	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.07	—
Erysipelas ..	..	0.19	0.20	0.19	0.17	—
Smallpox ..	..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles ..	..	8.95	8.91	9.18	8.54	—
Pneumonia ..	..	0.80	0.91	0.65	0.55	—
Acute poliomyelitis ..	..	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.18	—
Acute polioencephalitis ..	..	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	—
Food poisoning ..	..	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.19	—
<b>Deaths</b>						
All causes under 1 year of age ..						
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age ..	..	32(b)	37	30	29	29.17
<i>Notifications (Corrected)</i>						
<b>Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births</b>						
Puerperal fever and pyrexia ..	..	6.31	8.14	5.30	6.82	9.33

**Maternal Mortality in England and Wales**

International List No. and cause ..	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15-44
140. Abortion with sepsis ..	0.11	8
141. Abortion without sepsis ..	0.05	4
147. Puerperal infections ..	0.11	—
142-146, 148-150. Other maternal causes ..	0.71	—

(a) Rates per 1,000 total population.

(b) Per 1,000 related live births.

The number of deaths occurring each month at different age groups was as follows:—

Age	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Age group total
All under 1 year	1	1	3	3	2	3	3	1	3	1	2	2	25
1 and under 5	—	1	2	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	6
5 and under 15	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3
15 and under 25	3	3	2	2	1	—	1	—	2	1	—	2	17
25 and under 45	1	1	4	3	5	2	3	2	1	4	6	2	34
45 and under 65	9	12	18	7	16	6	8	6	9	7	12	11	121
65 and over	37	39	39	22	22	24	20	26	13	18	32	33	325
Monthly Totals	51	57	68	38	46	37	35	35	29	31	53	51	531

## Infantile Mortality

The following table shows the causes of infantile deaths in relation to age.

Disease	(a) Under 12 hrs.	(b) 13-24 hours	(c) 1-7 days	(d) 8-28 days	(e) Over 1 m'th	(f) Total
1. Congenital Malformation Birth Injury						
morasmus, etc. ...	2	1	6	—	1	10
2. Prematurity ...	1	1	4	1	1	8
3. Pneumonia ...	—	—	1	1	2	4
4. Bronchitis ...	—	—	—	—	1	1
5. Gastro-Enteritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Other causes ...	—	—	—	—	2	2
Total ... ...	3	2	11	2	7	25

The following table shows the increases and decreases in population since 1921:—

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Natural increase per 1,000 Population
1921	23.4	12.8	10.6
1922	22.2	12.1	10.1
1923	21.1	10.7	10.4
1924	19.8	13.3	6.5
1925	20.3	11.7	8.6
1926	20.2	13.2	7.0
1927	21.1	13.9	7.2
1928	18.0	11.8	6.2
1929	18.0	14.2	3.8
1930	18.5	10.8	7.7
1931	18.0	14.4	3.6
1932	17.5	12.4	5.1
1933	15.1	11.5	3.6
1934	15.2	11.4	3.8
1935	16.3	11.2	5.1
1936	15.5	11.9	3.6
1937	16.2	12.4	3.8
1938	15.95	12.2	3.75
1939	16.1	12.4	3.7
1940	19.55	15.58	3.97
1941	19.06	14.51	4.55
1942	19.03	14.5	4.53
1943	20.1	14.38	5.72
1944	23.7	14.23	9.47
1945	20.73	13.8	6.93
1946	24.37	12.3	12.07
1947	25.5	13.8	11.7
1948	21.28	11.21	10.07
1949	20.53	12.72	7.81

TOTAL DEATHS, 1948

	Chatham M.B.				M.	F.		
	Causes of Death							
	All Causes	...	...	...				
1.	Typhoid Fever, etc.	...	...	—	—	—		
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	—	—	—		
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	—	—	—		
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—	—		
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—		
6.	Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	—	14	13	—		
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	—	2	1	—		
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	...	—	5	—	—		
9.	Influenza	...	—	—	—	2		
10.	Measles	...	—	—	—	—		
11.	Ac. Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis	...	—	—	—	—		
12.	Ac. inf. enceph	...	—	1	—	—		
13.	Cancer of Buc. cav. & oesoph (m) uterus (f)	...	—	6	—	—		
14.	Cancer of stomach & duodenum	...	—	9	8	—		
15.	Cancer of breast	...	—	—	9	—		
16.	Cancer of all other sites	...	—	42	25	—		
17.	Diabetes	...	—	4	2	—		
18.	Intracranial vascular lesions	...	—	21	30	—		
19.	Heart Disease	...	—	75	90	—		
20.	Other dis. of circ. system	...	—	15	8	—		
21.	Bronchitis	...	—	13	10	—		
22.	Pneumonia	...	—	9	13	—		
23.	Other resp. diseases	...	—	7	1	—		
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	—	4	—	—		
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	—	1	—	—		
26.	Appendicitis	...	—	—	—	—		
27.	Other digestive diseases	...	—	4	5	—		
28.	Nephritis	...	—	3	6	—		
29.	Puer. and post-abort. sepsis	...	—	—	—	—		
30.	Other maternal causes	...	—	—	1	—		
31.	Premature Birth	...	—	5	3	—		
32.	Con. Mal. birth inj. infant. dis.	...	—	5	4	—		
33.	Suicide	...	—	6	2	—		
34.	Road traffic accidents	...	—	3	—	—		
35.	Other violent causes	...	—	4	5	—		
36.	All other causes	...	—	20	11	—		
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year	{ Total ... Legitimate Illegitimate		15 15 —	10 10 —	—		
	Live Births	{ Total ... Legitimate Illegitimate		420 395 25	437 420 17	—		
	Still Births	{ Total — Legitimate Illegitimate		13 12 1	6 4 2	—		

## **Section B**

# **GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA**

### **Laboratory Facilities**

The bacteriological examinations of throat swabs, sputum, blood, milk, water or other suspected material are carried out in the County Council Laboratory at Maidstone.

Chemical examinations are done by the County Analyst.

There is no delay in sending results.

### **Clinics and Treatment Centres**

#### *1. Maternity and Child Welfare.*

##### *(a) Ante-natal Clinics:*

White Road	...	2nd & 4th Tuesdays	a.m.
King's Road	...	1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesdays	a.m.
Elm House	...	... Mondays	p.m. Thursdays p.m.

##### *(b) Child Welfare Clinics:*

White Road	...	... Mondays	p.m. Thursdays p.m.
Kings Road	...	... Tuesdays	p.m.
Elm House	...	... Tuesdays	p.m. Fridays p.m.

##### *(c) Dental—by appointment.*

*(d) A Child Welfare Clinic is held at the Methodist Hall, Walderslade, on the first, third and fifth Friday of each month.*

#### *2. Women's Welfare Clinic.*

St. William's Hospital	...	1st and 4th Wednesdays	
		at 1.30 p.m.	
		2nd, 3rd and 5th Wednesdays	at 9.15 a.m.

#### *3. Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination.*

Elm House	...	...	3rd & 5th Wednesdays	p.m.
White Road	...	...	1st Wednesday	p.m.
King's Road	...	...	4th Wednesday	p.m.

#### *4. School Medical Service.*

##### *(a) Minor Ailments and Minor Inspections.*

Elm House	—Mondays	}	9-10.30 a.m.
	Wednesday		
	Fridays		

##### *(b) Dental—by appointment.*

##### *(c) Refraction—by appointment.*

##### *(d) Medical Inspection at Schools.*

##### *(e) Ophthalmic Clinic—by appointment.*

5. *Scabies Clinic*:  
 St. William's Hospital, Rochester ... ... Wednesday p.m.  
 (Arrangements to be made through the Public Health Department, Chatham. Tel. 3663/4).

6. *Chest Clinic*, 13 New Road, Rochester. Tel. 2182.

Tuesdays	...	...	2	p.m. —	3	p.m.
Fridays	...	...	9.30	a.m. —	10.30	a.m.

7. *Treatment Centre for Venereal Diseases*, 36 New Road, Rochester. Tel. 3343.

Mondays	...	...	...	1.30	p.m. —	4.30	p.m.
Thursdays	...	...	10	a.m. —	1	p.m.	

**Hospitals in Chatham and Rochester, under the administration of the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee, Secretary:—T. Rhodes, Esq., St. William's Hospital, Rochester, Tel. 4688.**

	<i>Cases</i>
Saint Bartholomew's Hospital, New Road, Rochester. Tel. 4278 and 4004.	General, Medical and Surgical
All Saints' Hospital, Magpie Hall Road, Chatham. Tel. 3686. ...	General, Medical, Surgical and Maternity
St. William's Hospital, St. William's Way, Rochester. Tel. 3243. ...	Infectious Diseases and Convalescent Surgical

**Home Nursing Association, Manor Road, Chatham. Tel. 3465.**

**Domestic Help Service, Elm House, New Road Avenue, Chatham. Tel. 3663/4.**

**Ambulance Service, King Edward Road, Rochester. Tel. 3540.**

#### **Nursing Homes**

On the register there is one nursing home which has accommodation for 20 maternity patients.

#### **Mortuary Accommodation**

By agreement with the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee, as from the 1st April, 1949, mortuary facilities were made available at All Saints' Hospital, Chatham and St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester. 18 bodies were removed by Chatham Police to All Saints' Hospital from this date to the 31st December, 1949.

**SECTION C.****PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS  
AND OTHER DISEASES**

(a) Notifiable Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1949

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital
Diphtheria ... ... ...	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ... ...	35	6
Pneumonia ... ... ...	19	2
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ... ...	8	7
Erysipelas ... ... ...	8	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ...	2	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	—	—
Meningococcal Meningitis ...	—	—
Meningitis—other forms ...	—	—
Measles ... ... ...	34	—
Whooping Cough ... ... ...	189	—
Dysentery ... ... ...	1	—
Food Poisoning ... ... ...	2	1

**(b) Infectious and other Diseases (Ages)**

(c) Infectious and other Diseases. (Wards).

(d) Table Showing Number of Cases of Infectious Diseases, 1928-1949

Year	Measles	Coughing	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	Bryspelias	Malaria	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Pneumonia	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Acute Poliomyelitis	Encephalitis Leptoharistica	Dysentery	
1928 ..	223	447	6	12	123	7	7	29	24	5	1	2	1	1
1929 ..	61	98	4	13	11	4	4	14	20	2	1	2	1	1
1930 ..	84	44	2	21	16	4	10	4	21	6	1	1	1	1
1931 ..	26	58	2	6	11	1	2	2	29	2	1	1	1	1
1932 ..	11	149	2	11	4	1	1	4	19	1	1	1	1	1
1933 ..	146	25	2	10	1	2	17	2	19	1	1	1	1	1
1934 ..	114	31	1	2	17	1	17	2	30	1	1	1	1	1
1935 ..	44	22	2	2	17	1	17	1	20	1	1	1	1	1
1936 ..	40	25	1	21	1	1	1	4	14	4	1	1	1	1
1937 ..	160	261	—	9	28	3	3	14	19	1	1	1	1	1
1938 ..	233	208	4	4	19	2	2	23	20	1	1	1	1	1
1939 ..	61	86	—	7	10	1	1	1	19	2	1	1	1	1
1940 ..	20	13	—	8	14	4	4	22	20	5	1	1	1	1
1941 ..	12	120	4	12	9	4	4	12	12	5	1	1	1	1
1942 ..	413	219	8	—	16	7	—	5	32	6	1	1	1	1
1943 ..	412	91	124	16	—	12	17	—	44	—	1	1	1	1
1944 ..	201	182	48	12	1	18	18	2	3	29	3	3	3	3
1945 ..	446	111	52	9	1	23	16	—	1	34	1	1	1	1
1946 ..	568	52	26	2	—	4	16	5	—	27	2	1	1	1
1947 ..	189	179	22	7	—	7	11	—	20	1	2	1	1	1
1948 ..	723	171	8	—	—	—	—	—	24	3	2	2	2	2
1949 ..	34	189	—	—	—	—	—	8	19	1	1	1	1	1

### **Scarlet Fever**

Cases notified	...	...	...	...	...	35
Removed to Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	6
Households affected with 1 case						31
Households affected with 2 cases						2
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	—

### **Diphtheria**

No cases were reported during the year

### **Immunisation against Diphtheria**

The Clinic first opened at the end of 1929 and is held as follows :—

Elm House	...	...	3rd & 5th Wednesdays p.m.
White Road	...	...	1st Wednesday p.m.
King's Road	...	...	4th Wednesday p.m.

The following table shows the numbers and ages of children who attended the Clinic during 1949 :—

Year of Birth	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942
Primary Inoculations	26	403	145	28	20	39	64	61
Reinforcing Inoculations	—	—	—	1	8	125	202	146
Year of Birth	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	Total
Primary Inoculations	45	59	41	5	2	1	2	941
Reinforcing Inoculations	179	255	212	117	1	3	2	1251

The yearly figures are as follows :—

Year	Immunised	Boosting Doses
1932	561	—
1933	405	—
1934	359	—
1935	482	—
1936	395	—
1937	381	—
1938	129	—
1939	80	—
1940	—	—
1941	514	—
1942	2399	—
1943	825	—
1944	576	—
1945	546	—
1946	602	75
1947	426	348
1948	680	163
1949	941	1251

## Vaccination against Small Pox

Age at 31.12.49	under 1	1 to 4	5 to 14	15 or over	Total
Number Vaccinated	210	172	19	14	415
Number Re-vaccinated	—	10	13	54	77

## Food Poisoning Outbreaks

- (a) Total number of outbreaks ... ... ... 2
- (b) Number of cases ... ... ... (confirmed cases) 4  
... ... ... 2
- (c) Number of deaths ... ... ... 0
- (d) Organisms or other agents responsible, with number of outbreaks attributable to each :—  
1 outbreak :—Salmonella Organisms.  
1 outbreak :—Shigella Sonne.
- (e) Foods involved, with number of outbreaks associated with each food :—  
1 outbreak :—Gurnet.  
1 outbreak :—Whelks.

## Supply of Anti Toxin

Anti Toxin for use by medical practitioners is available at all hospitals.

## Venereal Disease

The treatment centre for the Medway Area is situated at 36 New Road, Rochester. I am indebted to Dr. E. F. Prebble, Director, for the following particulars:—

New Patients—Chatham	Male	Female	Total
Syphilis ... ... ...	5	15	20
Chancroid ... ... ...	1	—	1
Gonorrhoea ... ... ...	13	4	17
Non-Venereal ... ... ...	48	11	59
	—	—	—
	67	30	97
	—	—	—

Total No. of new patients from all districts served ... 341

Total attendances of Chatham patients ... ... 1365

Total attendances of patients from all districts ... 5165

	Sy.	Gon.
Total number of patients treated with Penicillin ... ... ...	94	66

## DISCHARGES (all districts served)

### Discharged Cured:—

Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
Chancroid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Non-venereal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	203

### DEFAULTED BEFORE FINAL TEST OF CURE

Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10

### DEFAULTED BEFORE COMPLETION OF TREATMENT

Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

The following table shows the number of cases from Chatham since 1938:—

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Gonorrhoea	29	39	46	73	40	26	64	22	20	36	14	17
Syphilis	12	16	23	60	43	13	15	10	16	24	14	20
Chancroid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Non-Venereal	46	42	42	43	39	49	233	59	69	72	57	59

### Notification of Tuberculosis

#### PULMONARY

Total Notifications	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	76
By Private Practitioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Hospitals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Chest Physician	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Transferred from other districts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Reinstated Cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

#### NON-PULMONARY

Total Notifications	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
By Private Practitioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Hospitals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Chest Physician	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Transferred from other districts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Reinstated Cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

### Delay in Notification

5 notifications were received after death.

I am indebted to Dr. S. Roy C. Price, Chest Physician, for the following information :—

Particulars of patients from the Chatham Area dealt with at the Chest Clinic, Rochester, during the year 1949.

	Pulmonary				Non-Pulmonary				Totals					
	Adults		Children		Adults		Children		Adults		Children			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
Def. T.B.	37	19	3	2	—	—	4	3	5	37	23	6	7	73
Non T.B.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	94	123	48	37	302	
Total New Cases									131	146	54	44	375	

Total Attendances—1569.

INSTITUTIONS to which patients were sent during 1949 :—

Lenham Sanatorium	...	...	...	2
Grosvenor Sanatorium	...	...	...	5
Preston Hall Sanatorium	...	...	...	2
Fairlight Sanatorium	...	...	...	3
R.S.B. Hospital, Margate	...	...	...	3
St. Michael's, Hayle, Cornwall	...	...	...	1
London Chest Hospital	...	...	...	1
Keycol Hill Sanatorium	...	...	...	1
Holy Cross, Haslemere	...	...	...	1
All Saints Hospital	...	...	...	19
Gildridge Hospital, Bournemouth	...	...	...	1
Grove Park Hospital	...	...	...	5
Harefield Hospital, Middlesex	...	...	...	1
Total				45

TABLE SHOWING NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1949 :—

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 years	2	4	1	1	—	—	2	—
5-15 years	3	1	6	3	—	—	—	—
15-25 years	10	11	—	2	4	8	—	—
25-35 years	12	5	1	1	1	1	—	—
35-45 years	10	1	—	—	3	1	—	—
45-55 years	5	2	—	2	1	2	—	1
55-65 years	6	1	—	—	3	—	—	—
65 years up	3	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
Totals	...	51	25	8	9	14	13	2

**Registered cases of Tuberculosis as at 31st December in each year  
from 31st December, 1940-31st December, 1949**

Year	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
1940	130	50	180
1941	156	52	208
1942	180	63	243
1943	199	70	269
1944	229	76	305
1945	232	81	313
1946	245	88	333
1947	259	102	361
1948	266	56	322
1949	291	72	363

**Annual Average Notifications, Death and rates 5 year periods from 1935—1949 T.B.**

Year	Population	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Totals			
		Notifications	Notifi. rate Per 1,000 persons living	Deaths	Death rate Per 1,000 persons living	Notifications	Notifi. Rate Per 1,000 persons living	Deaths	Death rate Per 1,000 persons living	Nots.	Not. Rate
1935—1939	44,732	45	1.00	.28	.62	72	.27	3	.07	57	1.27
1940—1944	35,752	63	1.76	.33	.92	12	.34	6	.17	75	2.10
1945—1949	39,932	71	1.78	.32	.80	15	.38	4	.10	86	2.16
Actual	41,750	76	1.82	.27	.65	17	.41	3	.07	93	2.23
										30	.72

## SECTION D.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### Rainfall during 1949.

I am indebted to Avon E. Crisp, Esq., M.A., M.Inst.C.E., for the following figures taken at the Luton Pumping Station :—

January	Total depth in inches	0.93
February	" "	0.96
March	" "	0.81
April	" "	1.52
May	" "	1.71
June	" "	0.61
July	" "	1.70
August	" "	1.17
September	" "	0.79
October	" "	7.32
November	" "	2.49
December	" "	1.39
		_____
Total	...	21.40

#### Water

Supply is by the Chatham and District Water Co. and has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity. 36 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination, each of which showed a good result. Chlorination is still carried out.

The following number of houses are supplied by public water mains :—

(a) Direct to houses	...	...	...	12569
(b) By means of stand-pipes	...	...	...	12

The following number of houses are supplied other than by public water mains	...	...	...	38
--	-----	-----	-----	----

#### Drainage and Sewerage

The number of new houses connected to the public sewer during the year was :—

Corporation Property	...	...	...	218
Private	...	...	...	23
				_____
Total	...	...	...	241

Number of existing houses so connected	...	40
--	-----	----

The following extensions were made to the foul sewers giving a total length of 5,591 yds. lineal.

Luton Second Relief	...	...	...	400	yds. lineal
Dargetts Road	...	...	...	730	" "
King Edward Road	...	...	...	290	" "
Churchill Avenue	...	...	...	720	" "
Chestnut Avenue	...	...	...	1,096	" "
York Avenue	...	...	...	378	" "
Alexandra Road	...	...	...	360	" "
Boxley Road	...	...	...	360	" "
Langdown Road	...	...	...	1,017	" "
Walderslade Road	...	...	...	600	" "

### Public Cleansing

General public cleansing of street gullies, household and trade refuse is carried out by the Borough Engineer's Department and disposal is by controlled tipping.

House refuse is collected once per week except in the High Street, Military Road and Railway Street area where it is collected three times per week. Trade refuse is collected at the same time as the house refuse except where large quantities need special collection.

In accordance with the decision of the Council, all rubbish tipped must be covered the same night.

### Cesspool Work

1,068 complaints of choked drains and cesspool overflows were received, and it was found possible to clear 921 drains from obstruction. Overflowing cesspools made up the remainder of the complaints. The number of cesspools emptied was 147.

## **CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1949**

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough  
of Chatham*

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1949, and the work of the sanitary inspectors and the sanitary depot.

New houses are still being built but in too small a number as to affect the position of slum clearance and substandard houses.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

T. HOWARD,

*Chief Sanitary Inspector.*

## SECTION E.

### HOUSING

#### 1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the Year

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1072
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...						2759
2. Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...						625

#### 2. Remedy of Defects During the Year without Service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	...	...	...	286
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

#### 3. Action Under Statutory Powers During the Year

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—							
1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—							
(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...						Nil.
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—							
1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	349
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—							
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	338
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...						Nil.

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—					
1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	24
2. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	4
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—					
1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	Nil.
2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	Nil.

### New Houses During 1947

(a) The total number of dwelling houses on plans submitted during 1949 was 46.	...			
(b) The total number of houses erected during 1949	...	244		
(1) Houses erected by Local Authority	...	...	...	218
(2) Houses erected by other Persons	...	...	...	26

### Re-Housing of Council House Applicants

During the year, 20 removals were undertaken by this Department. In each case fumigation was carried out to the household effects.

### Requisitioning of Vacant Houses

During the year, enquiries were made into 4 vacant houses, with a view to requisitioning. In all cases the houses were occupied. The main cause of delay was the time lag in transferring the deeds of houses to new purchasers, and redecoration.

### Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

The number of licensed slaughtermen on the register at the 31st December, 1949, was 25.

### Rat Destruction

No. of rats caught in dwellinghouses	...	...	441
No. of rats caught in business premises	...	...	323
No. of rats caught at farms	...	...	129
No. of rats caught on corporation property	...	502	
			1395

Poison treatment, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries instructions was carried out, and the number of rats destroyed was 1,038. Of this figure, 156 carcases were found and included in the total of 1,395.

## SECTION F.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

**Food and Drugs Act, 1938.**

**Analysis by the County Analyst by arrangement with the Kent County Council.**

	No. of Samples		Result of Analysis		Genuine Good Quality	Adulterated Informal		
	Formal	Informal	Inferior					
			Formal	Informal				
Milk .. ..	64	13	1	—	76	—		
Tomato Ketchup .. ..	—	1	—	—	1	—		
Coffee .. ..	—	1	—	—	1	—		
Mustard .. ..	—	2	—	—	2	—		
Gravy Browning .. ..	—	2	—	—	2	—		
Fish Paste .. ..	—	3	—	—	3	—		
Gelatine .. ..	—	1	—	—	1	—		
Beef Sausage Meat .. ..	—	1	—	—	1	—		
Ice Cream .. ..	1	17	—	1	17	—		
Pork Sausages .. ..	1	3	1	1	1	1		
Baking Powder .. ..	—	2	—	—	2	—		
Sal Volatile .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—		
Salad Cream .. ..	—	4	—	—	4	—		
Cake Flour .. ..	—	1	—	—	1	—		
Beef Cubes .. ..	—	1	—	—	1	—		
Tincture of Quinine .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—		
Bisto .. ..	—	1	—	—	1	—		
Sausage Meat .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—		
Sausages .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—		
Beef Sausage .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—		
 Totals .. ..	66	58	2	7	114	1		

Inferior and adulterated samples of sausages and sausage meat were reported to the Food Control Committee for possible action under the Meat Products and Canned Meat (Control and Maximum Prices) Order, 1948, as amended. Statutory Instrument No. 1509, 1948. Prosecutions are pending.

## Samples for Bacteriological Analysis.—County Laboratory, Maidstone

The following samples were collected for analysis :—

### WATER

36 Water Samples were found to be " Good Water."

### MILK

240 samples of milk were taken with the following result :—

Class of Milk	Number of Samples	Appropriate Tests	Number of Tests	
			Passed	Failed
Pasteurised	43	Phosphatase Methylene Blue	42 42	1 1
Heat Treated	76	Phosphatase Methylene Blue	75 71	1 5
Sterilised	14	Turbidity	14	—
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	78	Phosphatase Methylene Blue	75 76	3 2
Tuberculin Tested	*22	Methylene Blue Coliform	15 9	7 7
Accredited	*7	Methylene Blue Coliform	3 1	4 4
Totals			423	35

\* No Coliform Test was carried out on 8 of these samples.

### Ice Cream

88 Ice Cream Samples were taken and the result was as follows :—

	GRADE				Total
	1	2	3	4	
Manufactured in the Borough	14	15	7	8	44
Manufactured outside the Borough... ...	19	8	9	8	44
	33	23	16	16	88

## MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTIONS

### Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number inspected ...	*324	*63	*2	3	*547	939
<b>All Diseases except Tuberculosis—</b>						
Whole carcases condemned	—	5	—	—	10	15
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ...	93	28	—	—	34	155
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	28.7	52.4	—	—	8.0	18.1
<b>Tuberculosis Only—</b>						
Whole carcases condemned	2	1	—	—	1	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ...	43	13	—	—	8	64
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	10.8	22.2	—	—	1.6	7.2

\* These figures include 15 cattle, 8 cows, 2 calves and 61 pigs not slaughtered in Chatham and not previously inspected.

### Unsound Food Voluntarily Surrendered, 1949

The total amount of meat and other foods condemned was 11 tons 2 cwts. 3 qrs. 4 lbs.

		Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Total weight of meat condemned ...	...	6	13	0	24
Total weight fish condemned ...	...	1	0	2	6
Total weight tinned and other foods condemned ... ... ...	...	3	9	0	2

## Inspection of Meat and other Foods

The following table shows the number of carcases inspected since 1942:—

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
1942	... 1322	479	520	8235	1153	11709
1943	... 1165	546	1025	6641	466	9861
1944	... 1341	1087	963	4956	1147	9494
1945	... 1425	990	1251	3313	1626	8605
1946	... 1920	1065	3326	5079	1429	12819
1947	... 850	349	986	2709	684	5578
1948	... 443	54	—	5	322	824
1949	... 324	63	2	3	547	939

## Fish Offal

Fish Offal collected was 18 tons 17 cwts., and the amount received was £43 9s. od. (This amount includes a small collecting fee).

## Bakehouses

There are 14 Bakehouses in the Borough.

## Ice Cream

6 premises are registered for the manufacture of Ice Cream and 52 for the sale and storage of ice cream.

## Disinfestation of Bedding, etc.

Bedding from Council House Applicants fumigated	28
Furniture from Council House Applicants disinfected	23
Council house rooms fumigated for vermin	... 40
Rooms of other houses fumigated for vermin	... 114
Bedding disinfected for vermin	... ... 17
Parcels of Bedding destroyed	... ... 9
Infectious diseases—bedding fumigated	... ... 72
Infectious diseases—rooms disinfected	... ... 77
Wasps Nests destroyed	... ... 7
Loads of Rubbish destroyed	... ... 9
Library Books fumigated	... ... 2

## Fish Fryers

There are 24 Fish Fryers on the register.

## Contagious Diseases of Animals Acts

No cases were reported during the year.

### Notices Served

During the year the following Notices were served:—

No. of Informal Notices	...	...	...	...	...	625
No. of Statutory Notices served on 1949 Informal Notices						317
No. of Statutory Notices served on 1948 Informal Notices						32
Total No. of Statutory Notices served during the year	...					349

Of these, the following were completed:—

No. of Informal Notices completed without a Statutory Notice having been served	...	...	...	...	...	286
* No. of Statutory Notices completed	...	...	...	...	...	338
Total No. of Notices completed in year 1949	...	...	...	...	...	*624

\* This figure includes notices completed during the year, but served prior to 1949.

### Visits Made by the Sanitary Inspectors During the Year

Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	283
Drainage and subsequent visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	832
Repairs and subsequent visits							2759
Housing Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	638
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	812
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	402
Fish Fryers	...	...	...	...	...	...	131
Marine Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Knackers Yard	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Milk Shops and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	276
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Houses (first visits)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,070
Ice Cream Vendors and Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	279
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Contagious Diseases of Animals Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Stables	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Courts and Alleys	...	...	...	...	...	...	267
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Bedding and Disinfection	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Unsound Food and Cold Store	...	...	...	...	...	...	437

Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	348
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Drains Tested (New)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	181
Drains Tested (Old)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	91
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	95
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	198
Council House Applicants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Rats Order	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	169
Gypsy Encampment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	174
Refuse Heaps and Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	136
Food and Drugs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	175
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Vacant Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Milk (Special Designations)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	280
Milk (Tuberculosis Order)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Mushroom Farm	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I

### Nuisances Abated.

Accumulations of Refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
W.C. pans replaced	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	117
Cesspool covers repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Cesspools filled up	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Chimney pots replaced	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Choked drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Coppers repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Door locks or fasteners repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Doors or frames repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Doors provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Drains ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Firegrates renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Firegrates repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	76
Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	77

Flushing cisterns provided	...	...	...	...	...	5
Gutters or downpipes cleared	...	...	...	...	...	9
Gutters or downpipes repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	...	147
Inspection covers provided	...	...	...	...	...	4
Interiors cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	330
Sashcords repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	...	98
Sinks provided or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	12
Sink waste pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	35
Stair treads or steps repaired	...	...	...	...	...	21
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	159
Damp walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	46
Weatherboarding or external walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	68
Windows reglazed	...	...	...	...	...	21
Window frames, sashes, sills repaired	...	...	...	...	...	79
W.C. seats or risers repaired	...	...	...	...	...	29
W.C. structures rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	10
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	...	...	20
Yard Gully or Grills provided	...	...	...	...	...	5
Houses reconditioned	...	...	...	...	...	1
Vent Shaft provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
New W.C. floors	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	153

